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TAGS: PFOR, FR

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT

1. TEXT OF SECTION ON FRANCE IN SECRETARY'S 1972 FOREIGN
POLICY REPORT SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE APRIL 19 FOLLOWS IN
FULL. QUOTE

2. THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH FRENCH PRESIDENT POMPIDOU
IN THE AZORES ON DECEMBER 19, 1971, GAVE AN IMPORTANT
BOOST TO RELATIONS WITH OUR OLDEST ALLY, WHICH CONTINUED
TO SHOW IMPROVEMENT THROUGHOUT 1972. THE FRENCH GOVERN-
MENT HELPED SIGNIFICANTLY IN ENABLING A CEASE- FIRE AGREE-
MENT TO BE REACHED BY AFFORDING ALL NECESSARY FACILITIES
FOR OUR TALKS WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF NORTH VIETNAM.
WHILE OUR VIEWS ON THE EVENTUAL STATUS OF VIETNAM ARE NOT
IDENTICAL, FRANCE HAS PLAYED A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE
SEARCH FOR A JUST PEACE IN INDOCHINA.

3. FOREIGN MINISTER SCHUMANN'S IN- DEPTH DISCUSSION WITH
PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY ROGERS IN SEPTEMBER DEMON-
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STRATED BOTH PARALLEL INTERESTS AND A DESIRE TO RECONCILE DIFFERENCES. IN CONTINUING COOPERATION ON DEFENSE MATTERS, FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER DEBRE VISITED THE UNITED STATES IN JULY TO CONSULT WITH SECRETARY LAIRD AND OTHER OFFICIALS. THIS WAS THE FIRST SUCH VISIT BY A FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER SINCE 1961. THESE TALKS CONFIRMED THE

IMPORTANCE OF THE FRENCH DEFENSE EFFORT AND THE POSSIBILITIES FOR COLLABORATION AMONG ALLIES.

4. ON MATTERS AFFECTING THE FUTURE OF EUROPE, OUR DISCUSSIONS REVEALED SOME DIVERGENCIES ON THE PROCEDURAL APPROACH TO A CSCE, AND A MAJOR DIFFERENCE ON MBFR, WHICH FRANCE OPPOSES. IN VIEW OF THE OVERALL SIMILARITY IN FRENCH AND US VIEWS ON SECURITY ISSUES, HOWEVER, WE ARE ENCOURAGING FRENCH INTEREST IN MBFR TO THE EXTENT FEASIBLE. ON THE MIDDLE EAST, OUR SIMILAR OBJECTIVES, PARTICULARLY ON A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, WERE ACCOMPANIED BY DIFFERENCES IN EMPHASIS AND APPROACH ON SPECIFIC ISSUES. THE FRENCH HAVE STRONGLY SUPPORTED OUR EFFORTS TO DEVELOP USEFUL RELATIONS WITH CHINA, WHICH THEY VIEW AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT FOR WORLD STABILITY AND A RETURN TO PEACE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA.

5. FRANCE REMAINS COMMITTED TO ITS BASIC ALLIANCE WITH THE UNITED STATES AND ITS OTHER NATO ALLIES. WHILE ESPOUSING AN INDEPENDENT STRATEGIC DOCTRINE, FRANCE FAVORS THE MAINTENANCE OF A STRONG WEST EUROPEAN DEFENSE WITHIN THE NORTH ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. AT THE SAME TIME THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS SOUGHT TO MAINTAIN A CAREFUL BALANCE IN ITS POLICIES TOWARD THE USSR AND THE UNITED STATES AND TO NURTURE EAST- WEST DETENTE AND COOPERATION. FRANCE'S ACTIVE AND FORWARD ROLE IN EAST- WEST RELATIONS HAS USUALLY BEEN CONSONANT WITH OVERALL US POLICIES.

6. ECONOMIC ISSUES. AS THE MOST INDEPENDENT- MINDED OF OUR WESTERN EUROPEAN ALLIES, FRANCE HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN THE EFFORT TO DEFINE THE ROLE OF A REVITALIZED EUROPE VIS- A- VIS THE UNITED STATES. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ISSUES IN THIS EFFORT HAVE BEEN WORLD TRADE AND MONETARY ARRANGEMENTS, WITH THE FRENCH IN PARTICULAR CALLING FOR A POWERFUL EUROPEAN MONETARY AREA AS A MEANS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REDUCING THE ROLE OF THE DOLLAR. FRENCH POSITIONS ON

SUCH ISSUES AS EC PREFERENTIAL AGREEMENTS, MONETARY POLICY, AND NONTARIFF TRADE BARRIERS OFTEN DIVERGE FROM OUR OWN. FRANCE WANTS MINIMUM MOVEMENT OF EXCHANGE RATES, AN IMPORTANT ROLE FOR GOLD, AND FULL ASSET SETTLEMENT BY THE UNITED STATES.

7. DESPITE THESE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES ON MONETARY AND TRADE MATTERS, DEFINITE PROGRESS WAS REGISTERED AT THE IMF MEETING IN SEPTEMBER WHEN FRENCH FINANCE MINISTER GISCARD D'ESTAING PRAISED THE US PROPOSALS FOR REFORM ADVANCED BY TREASURY SECRETARY SHULTZ. MOREOVER, THE FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTED A FRENCH PROGRAM WHICH SIGNIFICANTLY NARROWED THE GAP PREVIOUSLY EXISTING BETWEEN THE

TWO COUNTRIES.

8. IN TRADE WITH FRANCE, THE UNITED STATES CONTINUED TO RUN A SIZABLE SURPLUS IN 1972. WE BOTH REMAIN COMMITTED TO GENERAL TRADE NEGOTIATIONS BEGINNING IN 1973 AND TO FURTHER EXTENSIVE REDUCTIONS OF TARIFF AND NON-TARIFF BARRIERS TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

9. AREAS OF COOPERATION. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION CONTINUED TO EXPAND, AS BOTH COUNTRIES GAVE OFFICIAL SUPPORT TO MORE THAN 100 PROJECTS INVOLVING THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND RESEARCH. IN THE FIELDS OF SPACE AND THE PEACEFUL APPLICATIONS OF ATOMIC ENERGY, HOWEVER, FRANCE'S DESIRE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A MORE COMPREHENSIVE TECHNOLOGICAL BASE IN EUROPEAN INDUSTRY HAS IN THE PAST BEEN REFLECTED IN A RELUCTANCE TO ENGAGE IN MAJOR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH THE UNITED STATES.

10. THE YEAR 1972 ALSO SHOWED AN ENORMOUS BREAKTHROUGH IN THE JOINT US-FRENCH EFFORTS TO SUPPRESS ILLICIT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. DRUG SEIZURES IN FRANCE REACHED AN UNPRECEDENTED HIGH AS EIGHT HEROIN PROCESSING FACILITIES WERE DISCOVERED AND DESTROYED, COMPARED TO A TOTAL OF FOUR SUCH SEIZURES DURING THE PREVIOUS SEVEN YEARS. THE BATTLE IS BY NO MEANS WON, AND WE ARE CONTINUING OUR CO-OPERATIVE EFFORTS IN THE FIGHT TO SUPPRESS THE MOVEMENT OF HEROIN TO THE UNITED STATES. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT HAS INCREASED ITS STAFF OF NARCOTICS POLICE TO MORE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAN 150 AGENTS, WHO HAVE MADE AN IMPRESSIVE SERIES OF ARRESTS AND SEIZURES. IN PURSUIT OF THIS EFFORT, ATTORNEY GENERAL KLEINDIENST VISITED PARIS IN NOVEMBER TO CONSULT WITH INTERIOR MINISTER MARCELLIN, MINISTER OF JUSTICE PLEVEN, AND OTHER FRENCH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

UNQUOTE.

ROGERS

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